

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 1416

---

As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Agriculture & Rural Economic Development, March 22, 2007

**Title:** An act relating to standards and grades for fruits and vegetables.

**Brief Description:** Extending an asparagus exception to the standards for fruits and vegetables.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Grant, Chandler, Linville, Newhouse, Warnick and VanDeWege.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/23/07, 93-0.

**Committee Activity:** Agriculture & Rural Economic Development: 3/22/07 [DP].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Rasmussen, Chair; Hatfield, Vice Chair; Schoesler, Ranking Minority Member; Morton and Shin.

**Staff:** Bob Lee (786-7404)

**Background:** In 2004, the Legislature approved a temporary exception to mandatory grading standards for asparagus shipped out-of-state for fresh packing. The exception expires on December 31, 2007.

**Summary of Bill:** The exception from mandatory grading standards for asparagus shipped out- of-state for fresh packing is extended and will expire on December 31, 2009.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO:** As the asparagus processing industry has left the state, this bill will assist in providing alternative marketing opportunities for asparagus growers and applies only to the shipment of fresh asparagus shipped out of state.

**Persons Testifying: PRO:** Representative Grant, prime sponsor; Charlie Brown, Washington Asparagus Council.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*